

REMARKS

Claims 2, 4-9, 11-13, and 16-17 are presented for further examination. Claims 2, 4, 6, 8-9, 11 and 16 have been amended. Claims 1, 3, 10, 14-15, and 18-19 have been cancelled.

In the Final Office Action mailed April 12, 2007, the Examiner finally rejected claims 1, 2, 9, and 14-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Litel et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,260,376) in view of Wynn (U.S. Patent No. 6,092,868). Claims 3-8, 10-13, and 18 were found to be allowable if rewritten in to independent form.

Applicant respectfully requests re-examination of the claims.

Applicant has amended claim 2 to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 3. Hence, Claim 2 is now in condition for allowance as are dependent claims 4 and 5.

Applicant has amended claim 6 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 7. Claim 6 is now in condition for allowance, as is dependent claim 8.

Claim 9 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 10. Hence, claim 9 is allowable as are dependent claims 11-13.

Claim 16 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 19. Hence claim 16 is in condition for allowance, as is dependent claim 17.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims remaining in this application are clearly in condition for allowance. In the event the Examiner finds minor informalities that can be resolved by telephone conference, the Examiner is urged to contact applicant's undersigned representative by telephone at (206) 622-4900 in order to expeditiously resolve prosecution of this application. Consequently, early and favorable action allowing these claims and passing this case to issuance is respectfully solicited.

Application No. 10/616,185
Reply to Office Action dated April 12, 2007

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

Respectfully submitted,
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